

**REMARKS**

**ALLOWED CLAIMS**

Claims 6-30 are allowed.

**CLAIMS OBJECTED TO**

Claim 2 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 2 has been amended to include claim 1 (without the terminology "(e.g., dimethyl silicone rubber)", and is now submitted to be in allowable form.

**PRIORITY DOCUMENTS**

Certified copies of the priority documents JP2000-120250, JP2000-120251, JP2000-120253, and JP2000-120254 are enclosed herewith.

**CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 2 has been amended. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-5 and 31-56 are withdrawn. Claims 2 and 6-30 are under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

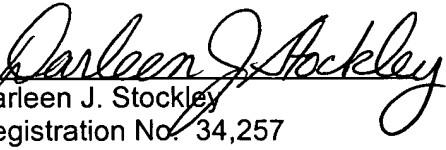
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: November 21, 2003

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